United Nations A/HRC/30/NGO/47

General Assembly

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-14942(E)

Please recycle

Violence in the Middle East

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) would like to draw the attention of 30th Session of the Human Rights Council to the human rights situation in a number of Middle Eastern countries. This NGO believes that violence and extremism is growing in the region because of the lack of attention or support of western powers, and civilians are always the first and most suffering victims.

In Yemen, following the intervention of alliance forces led by Saudi, the humanitarian crisis increased and thousands of civilians are killed. In the latest attacks against Ta-az province alone, many homes and villages have been bombed, 60 people are left dead and another 80 injured.

According to latest figures, following the attacks of the alliance to-date 23,000 are left dead and injured. UNICEF announced that the average number of Yemeni children that have been killed or injured has reached to 8 per day. From March 26th 2015 and the start of the war in Yemen till now, 400 children have been killed and another 600 injured.

13 million Yemenis are suffering from food shortages and 6 million are suffering from extreme food shortages, and badly need international aid. And this means that 2 out of every five Yemenis are in need of emergency aid, and this average is on the increase.

Reminding the need to respect the sovereignty of nations, the right to self-determination of nations and prohibition of military intervention principles, ODVV states that the military attack against Yemen is unlawful according to the Geneva Conventions, and while condemning this, the UN must provide the basis for the observation and proper implementation principles, and facilitate the judicial and executive measures for the victims. Furthermore air attacks against residential and civilian areas in Yemen and the killing of civilians, are all violations of fundamental and humanitarian law. Therefore while supporting the right to legitimate defence of the people of Yemen, ODVV calls for a UN special investigation, particularly the Human Rights Council, on the violation of humanitarian law in the country.

The human rights situation in Bahrain continues to deteriorate. ODVV is concerned about the legislation and application of unjust laws in the country. These include the Press law of 2002 which allows for journalists that criticize the government get arrested, the defamation and insult law of 2014, which criminalizes any insult against the king, the anti-terror law which allows the security forces to persecute political opponents of the government, the 2013 law on the prohibition of all demonstrations and congregations all over the country, which has resulted in the detention of many citizens, civil activists and journalists (since 2011, more than 300 women have been detained in Bahrain and been subjected to torture), and many other laws.

Unfortunately there are numerous reports that indicate the freedom expression and belief is severely violated by the government, to such an extent that in recent unrests a large number of journalists, reporters, civilians, and human rights defenders have been subjected to pressure and or arrested for their beliefs or news coverage of incidents and or human rights advocacy. ODVV calls upon the Human Rights Council to make the Bahrain government accountable for violation of freedom of expression and belief, and while condemning the ratification and implementation of unjust laws, calls on the Yemeni government to remove such laws.

In Iraq, following the increasing crimes of the ISIS terror group, which has occupied approximately half of the country, and has turned into a serious threat to the people of Iraq. Displacement of over 3 million people, destruction of a substantial part of the economic infrastructures of the country, kidnappings, rape, and use of children in armed conflicts and killing and injuring of over 4000 civilians are all causes for concern of ODVV. While expressing concern of the increasing dire human rights situation in Iraq, ODVV stresses on the support and cooperation of the international community with the government, leadership and people of Iraq and asks the international community to make a more effective intervention to free Iraq of the inhuman acts of ISIS, and encourage the Human Rights Council to support the economic and judicial reform programs of Iraq, and calls upon states to assist reconstruction of the country.

In Syria, the terrorist and inhuman acts continue to take place against civilians. While reminding the articles of Human Rights Council 29th Session A/HRC/29/L.4 resolution, on the basis of the condemnation of the killing of civilians with heavy weapons, torture in prisons and detention centres, ODVV sees cause for concern of the inhuman acts of terror

groups in the region. Organized violence committed against civilians. Terror attacks of the numerous terrorist groups in the country, who are supported by a number of countries, is strongly condemned by the ODVV Extremist ideology and the brutality of a number of groups in the conflict theatre in Syria, does not conform to any religion, culture or civilization, and all Monotheist religions and cultures deem these types of inhuman and brutal acts only as the systematic and extensive violation of human rights and international humanitarian law principles.

ODVV deems the existing political and religious tensions in the country as having roots in the failure to have an apt dialogue among Syrians and supports the new people plan for Syria which is also approved by the UN Security Council and calls upon states to assist Syria within the framework of their duties in this path.

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 2 and 10
Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Technical assistance and capacity-building

Written statement* submitted by the International Career Support Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[06 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-14943(E)

Please recycle

Japanese local government lie politics becomes ordinary

Part of Conservative local assemblymen and socialism local assemblymen gets self-income (Concession).
In many Japanese local governments.
Lie politics continue performances (In friendly words: Peace, Gender, Minority)
Japanese government = perpetrator: Against local government
Men = perpetrator: Against Women
Japanese = perpetrator: Against East Asians
They devote themselves to destroying the city.
After all,
They become the tool of other country and they will destroy Japan.
They treat the human rights of other country well and protect their human rights.
However,
They do not protect the Japanese citizen.

Editor: Mio Sugita

United Nations A/HRC/30/NGO/49

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 5
Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Written statement* submitted by the International Career Support Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[06 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-14944(E)

Please recycle

The people who make Okinawa a political issue

It is my great honor to be here today. I am honor to introduce myself to you all. My name is Toshiaki Okano. I used to be a school teacher and mayor of Choshi-City.

Today, I am here to share some facts with you on people in Okinawa, the southernmost prefecture of Japan. While the term "indigenous people" is not categorically defined by the international treaty such as "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" (ICCPR) and "Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", international society, under the leadership of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, has been successfully identify these people and address issues they face through inclusive consultation and careful diagnosis from various aspects with due consideration with local and historical context. I strongly believe that the success and effectiveness of the work by the U.N. to address the issue of "indigenous people" is, and will be critically dependent on careful diagnostic process driven by objective facts, not by emotional agitation or one-sided allegation. We cannot ignore the rumor anymore, could no longer bear with the situation because it will artificially create division, prejudice and discrimination among that some incorrect gonzo information about the Japanese who are united and living in a harmonized manner. Since Japan consists of more than six thousand and eight hundred (6,800) islands stretching about 3000kmthree thousand kilometers from north to south and east to west, each region has its own uniqueness including language, history, music, dance, handicrafts, foods, and nature. Like other 46 prefectures, Okinawa is the place of shining unique culture. People in Okinawa often call themselves as "uchinan-chu", which means "Okinawa-nese, just like people in Osaka call themselves as "Kansai-jin", meaning "people born and raised in Kansai."

This does not mean that they do not identify themselves as Japanese. As many of you know, Okinawa turned into a fierce battle field in the last stage of the WW2 , followed by the rule under the U.S. Government until (1972). Despite the unfortunate history, the Japanese government has unfairly or discriminately, compared to other 46 prefectures. There has been a politically-charged dispute between the Japanese central government and the Okinawa municipal government on U.S military base. This is a difficult but a common issue when it comes to deciding the location of a public facility which is necessary for all, but troublesome for those who live in the affected area. Examples of such facilities include nuclear power plants, waste treatment facilities, prisons, and military bases. While so called "NIMBY – Not In My Back Yard".

My point here is that any those factors behind the issue of U.S military base in Okinawa have nothing to do with racial, cultural, religious and ethnic identity of people in Okinawa.

While I am not quite sure about the intention behind the rumor claim, this can be seen as a political act aiming at further complicating political debate on the issue around U.S Military Base in Okinawa, splitting Japanese people into two groups, and artificially escalating the tension among Japanese, thereby creating an opportunity to get some geo-political gain. What I mentioned just now sounds more realistic when you think of the growing uncertainty in the national security environment in and around North-East Asian Region.

With this in mind, let me ask colleagues in United Nations for your careful and objective diagnosis on this subject. As we all know, any action by the U.N Human Rights Commission should bridge a gap between people, not dividing people; should eliminate discrimination, not create prejudice; should help people work together, not make people hate each other. To achieve the goal of the United Nations, and not to make any unintentional mistakes, I want all of you here today to examine the issue from various aspects through inclusive and consultative process with due consideration with historical, culture, legal, and emotional context of the concerned area and people. Please keep in mind that the battle ship Yamato went to rescue Okinawa by knowing that they will never able to return. Thank you.

Editor: Toshiaki Okano

United Nations A/HRC/30/NGO/50

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 9
Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Written statement* submitted by the Prahar, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-14945(E)

Please recycle

Unsolved issues and Identity crisis in Assam

Assam is a beautiful and pluralistic state endowed with an incredible range of culture and landscapes. Located in the northeast of India it has blue hills and green valleys interspersed by mighty Brahmaputra River. But the indigenous people living in this colourful region are suffering a lot and living bland lives. Various Indian laws are based on discrimination in such a form so as to deceive world opinion. Discrimination against indigenous people of Assam is maintained in a very sophisticated form. And now these people have given up their sleep for safeguard of their own identity and rights. The lives of indigenous peoples of Assam are in now turmoils.

Living in harmony and peace since early days of history, the policies of Government of India somehow diversified us into numerous small groups of different caste, community and tribes for its convenience to rule which leads to conflicts amongst these little groups motivated by political issues. The erstwhile Assam was broken into several states on the alibi of administrative efficiency. But these divisions led to acrimony among the newly carved states as the Government of India did not demarcate the borders properly while dividing the states. Consequently people living in border areas live in utter tension and uncertainty about their locus-standee. Border clashes are common in North east.

The potentiality of development of Assam is enriched by its natural resources like petroleum, tea, and Coal and hydro-power generation. The state has the potential to be self sufficient for all-round development as it is rich in natural resources. But policies so far has reflected an avoiding attitude of the government towards North Eastern States of India. The resources were drained out of the state since India's independence for development of other parts of India and Multi-National Industrial Groups only for the vested interest of corrupt political leadership. Some policies in the name of development have brought threat to the existence of indigenous people. Construction of Mega Dams in the region poses threat to the people living in the downstream region and to the environment as a whole.

Migration has always been a reality to Assam. After the annexation of Assam in accordance to Iyandaboo Treaty between British and Burmese, Immigration in Assam began. This is a severe burning issue that affects all Assamese people. There are many problems which develop including overpopulation, rising rates of unemployment, poverty and crime. The British rulers encouraged large scale immigration from other parts of India to Assam. After the independence of India the situation became worse. In 1971, the circumstances became more critical as there occurred with a fresh, continuous and large scale of land-hungry outsiders of the nation and bordering areas to Assam. This large scale illegal migration poses a great threat to the identity of Assamese people and become the cause of internal insecurity to the state. A great deal of the population growth can be seen in the past and present due to immigration of foreign people to this land. As is apparent in any area that receives immigrants the influx of new people has an affect on population size. The large scale migration has significantly changed the demographic scenario in Assam and became the leading cause to social, economic and political instability in Assam.

Assam - a state which has been facing tremendous discrimination and a number of movements aim in to achieve a range of objectives having both ethnic and territorial focus. While some of these were partially resolved, several other remain unresolved. After the independents of India to till now, numbers of acts has been enacted by the Indian Government for Assam to abate aliens viz. Foreigners Acts 1946, The Immigration (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950, Illegal Migration (Determination by Tribunal) Act, 1983 etc. Population of Assam increased 1971 to 1991 @52.44% and the dark shadow of Illegal migration seemed to swallow the future of Assamese people. This large demographic conversion engendered the feeling of cultural, linguistic and political insecurity, which snowed under the Assamese, conveyed a strapping touching content to their movement against illegal migrants. As the result the largest and famous movement was evoked in Assam and it was better known as (**Assam Movement**). This most powerful and vigorous mass movement lasted from 1979 to 1985. This movement was undertaken to pressure the Central Government to detect, delete and expel the foreign nationals from Assam. During this "**Assam Agitation**" 855 youths gave up their lives and became "Martyr". Finally, this mass movement was ended with the signing of the Assam accord on 1985. But in lieu of six year's long movement and lives of those 855 Martyrs, Assamese people have lost their valuable rights. According to the Assam Accord the "**Cut of Year**" of expel of Illegal foreigners from Assam is 1971 whether it is 1951 for all other parts of India. That means, Assam has beared the load of Illegal migrants of these extra 20years alone. All anti foreigners acts, laws and Accords are in some extent seems like boomerang for all Assamese people. Till today the Illegal migrant problem remains unresolved. Has the sacrifices of all those brave-hearts who martyred for the cause

gone in vain? The "Cut of Year" for Identification and deportation of Illegal migrants is different with Assam and other parts of India. Why? Illegal migrants constitute more than 30% of the total population of Assam which is a very large number in multi-ethnic Assam. In the meantime, the migrants who are Illegal as per the Assam Accord have remained in Assam and numbers have multiply along with their descendants.

Government lands, Forest Reserves and Sanctuaries and Satras(socio-cultural institution) have been widely encroaching by the Illegal migrants. The high growth of migrated population has affected the Assam economic resources and thus it led to the economic instability of Assamese people. Basic economy of Assam is Agriculture. But here also the immigration has affected a lot on agricultural lands. It causes poverty and unemployment in the Assamese society. The state economic resources are effecting very badly. Such a situation has to face only by Assam in the Country. The functioning of the tribunal for expedition the cases against Illegal migrants is in a shambles due to the indifferent of successive Government. All these have added frustration and anger to Indigenous community of Assam. The people of Assam are now struggling against these illegal foreigners to protect their Identity, Culture and Rights.

Assam is a world famous state for greater one horn Rhinoceros. But the population of this rare threatened species decline day by day. Poaching is become the greatest threat to this vulnerable animal. Most of the illegal migrants are involve in poaching of Rhinos. If government don't take any adequate strict action against these poachers, one horn Rhinoceros will vanish from this world very soon. Proper updating of National Register of Citizen (NRC) based on year 1951, better surveillance, proper sealing of border issues may help to solve this burning issue.

The Majuli Island is a typical example of how indigenous culture is put at stake. This river island in Brahmaputra River has retained Assamese culture in pristine form from the time of Srimanta Sankaradeva (1449-1568) was an integrating force for the indigenous people. He and his followers set up Sattras in this island. As Majuli remains inaccessible to the world, her cultural wealth remains unpolluted. The Sattras existing in this island are custodians of the Assamese culture. But constant erosion has stood as an obstacle to the very existence and survival of the Sattras in Majuli. Already many households as well as several Sattras had to shift out from Majuli. Every such shift makes it susceptible to external influences. Thus there is a crying need to protect the heritage of Majuli by safeguarding the island, which has been in the tentative list for world heritage site for a several years. Unfortunately the Archaeological Survey of India has not pushed the matter in proper manner. An international recognition to this island would have helped a lot by way of boosting up its conservation initiative. Majuli and some other places like Alipukhuri (Patekibori), Bardowa, Barpeta etc. used to be centres of cultural training and propagation since the time of Srimanta Sankaradeva. But over time a lot of cultural wealth vanished due to onslaught of consumerism.

We appeal to the United Nations for interference of this severe matter. And we also request the International community ask the govt of India and request and pressurise them for this Assamese people that we can live a meaningful and respected lives.

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Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs and International Movement of Catholic Students), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-14946(E)

Please recycle

Nepal: freedom of religion or belief should be protected in the most recent draft bill of the constitution

Nepal is in the process of adopting a new constitution as the most recent draft is submitted to the second Constitution Assembly (CA). Pax Romana and its' 75 partner civil society and faith-based organizations in Nepal[1] would like to welcome the finalization and the adoption of Nepal's Constitution. However, we draw an urgent attention of this Council towards the continuing issue of religious freedom and belief remains one of the most contentious issues throughout the Constitution-making process. Section 26-3 of the proposed constitution bill criminalizes "any act to convert another person from one religion to another". This provision denies the fundamental human right freedom of conscience.

We urge this Council's attention to this section of the Constitution considering its possible adverse impact on the multi-cultural Nepalese society[2]. We firmly believe that the right to freedom of religion or belief, as defined by international

[1] Other 75 local organizations in Nepal that participated in the drafting of this report include:
Abiral-The Arts Groups, Advocates-Nepal, Asian Resource Foundation (ARF) Nepal, Asian Academy for Peace Research And Development (AAPRD), Association of Youth Organization Nepal (AYON), Awareness Group Oppressed Women (AGOW)-Nepal, Centre For Karnali Rural Promote & Development Society (CDS-Park), Chandra Jyoti Integrated Rural Development Society (CIRDS), Child Society Nepal(CS Nepal), Children's Partner CAP Nepal, Cooperation for Integral Social Development Nepal (CISD), Community Development Support Society (CDSS) Nepal, Community Development Forum Nepal (CDFN), Chelibeti Club, Community Managed Disastter Risk Reduction (CMDRR) Forum, Community Women Welfare Multi-Proposed Co-operative Organization – Nawalparasi, Concern Centre for Rural Youth (CCRY), Cooperation for integrated Social Decelopment (CISD) , Dalit Alliance for Natural Resource Nepal (DANAR), Development Concern Society (DECOS), District Youth Club Network (DYCN), DivyaYuva Club(DYC), Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO-Nepal), E-Nepali Khabar, Environment Conservation Centre (ECC)-Kathmandu, Environmental Law Committee (ELC), Nepal Bar Association (NBA), Family of God Church (FGC), Farwest Multipurpose Center(FWMF), Federation of Democratic NGO Nepal (FEDEN), Feyvina Foundation, Forest Environment Workers Union Nepal (FEWUN) Forum For National Building (FFNB), Forum for Women Development (FWD), Foundation for Maternal and Child Health (FMCH)-Nepal, Good Governance Protection Forum (GGPF), Good Neighbors International (GNI), Human Development and Community Services (HDCS), Human Rights and Rural Environment Protection Centre (HUREC)-Nepal, Indoor Smoke Alleviation & Environment Protection Forum (ISAEPF)-Nepal, Institute for Theological Education by Extension in Nepal (ITEEN), Integrated Rural Development Society (IRDS), Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN), Jagriti Child Club Nepal (JCCN), Micah Network Nepal (MNN), National Forum for Advocacy Nepal (NAFAN), National Human Development Forum (NHDF), Nepal Bishwobidhyalaya Christia Bidhyarthi Sangati (NBCBS) Nepal Christia Samaj Nepal Church (NC), Nepal Ebenezer Bible College (NEBC), Nepal Friendship Society Chitwan (NFSC)-Nepal, On-line Civil Society News (CSN), Participatory Rural Development Programme (PRDP), Partnership for Poverty Action (PFPA), Patan Community Based Rehabilitation(CBR), Pax Romana-Nepal, Pravasi Nepali Coordination Committee (PNCC), Protection Nepal, SAMATA foundation, Samata Nepal, Sharada Media Sangam (SMS), Social Improve Service Forum (SISEF)-Nepal, Social or Environmental Issue Face Center (SEIFC), Society for Environment Agriculture and Prosperity (SEAP)-Nepal, Sustainable Community Development Centre (SCDC), System Development Service Centre (SDSC), Transformation Nepal (TFN), Unification Nepal (UN), United Youth for World Peace (UYWP), Women Peace Society (WPS), Humla Volunteer Aid (VAID)-Nepal, Youth Campaign For Social Change (YCSC), Youth Network Doti (YND), Youth Network for Peace and Development (YNPD), Youth Partnership for Development and Peace (YPDP)-Nepal, Yuwalaya.

[2] Though the Interim Constitution (IC) 2007 has identified Nepal as Federal Democratic Republic, this and the structure of Federalism will only be institutionalized once the new constitution drafting is complete. Until then the IC 2007 is the key legal instrument. IC 2007 has declared the nation as" a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-religious, multi-cultural ....." This statement accepts the identity of more than one religion. Further the national census 2011 also reports the presence of various religious groups

standards, is a wide-ranging right covering a large number of distinct yet interrelated issues. We draw the attention of this Council that the proposed New Constitution should be in harmony with the international standards and the international legal instruments as Nepal is party to 20 international human rights conventions[3], and ask pertinent questions to the Government of Nepal about compliance of those international legal instruments in Nepal.

We remind this Council that there are no legal registration procedures for minority religious groups in Nepal thus restricting them from legally owning land and properties of other forms including burial sites. Religious minority groups such as Christian have to register their Churches as NGOs. While in other hand majority, religions such as Hindu can register their temple as religious trusts (Guthi). Having no legal registration also prevents minority religious community to get funding and other form of supports from the state. Furthermore, members of non-Hindu religious groups lack representation in top political and government positions. Mostly priorities in government appointments is given to Hindus. And we have also received the reports that people of religious minorities such as Buddhist monks or Muslims are harassed by the police and bureaucrats due their appearance, language, dress, etc. In addition, Civil Servants (Nepal Army and Police) are not allowed to observe the religion of their choices, but forced to participate in Hindu religious ceremonies/functions thus compelling them to voluntarily resign and many times opting for not getting employed in them. Disregarding of the Constitutional declaration of Nepal as a secular state, discriminatory laws against minority religions are still enforced.[4]

There are some recent incidents where the authority has shown its ignorance or serious human right violation against minority religious groups:

- In March 2012, police detained two Buddhist/Hindu Tamang youths in Lalitpur for slaughtering a cow and locals vandalized their home. In fact, Tamangs eat Cow by their ethnic culture.
- In June 2014, Pastor Mahesh Thanju along with 39 members of his Church was arrested and taken into custody for 3 days in Sundarijal for baptizing 24 adults who voluntarily wished to become Christian.
- On February 26, 2014: Mrs. Dil Shova, a Christian social worker running an orphanage and an old-age home, was accused of sexually exploiting the people under her care and converting the orphans to Christianity.[5]
- In August 2015, a group of religious minorities organized a peaceful rally in Butuwal town of southwest Nepal, with banners, demanding secular state. The photograph of two women holding a banner in the front row were edited by Photoshop and were accused as if they are demanding for prostitution business in the name of Church by Hindu Yuwa Sangh. Photo was published on Facebook. However, no action was taken even after filing complain.
- At night on 25 August 2015, a Christian group of Thrau; one of the oldest tribal groups in Terai region of Nepal, together with their Pastor Chaudhary were badly beaten by the security forces. Local Churches in Kailali remained under terror created by the government at the moment.

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mainly Christians 1.42%, Islam 4.39%, Kirat 3.05%, Buddhist 9.04% and Hindu 81.34%. As a large portion of the population is Hindu the other religions represent the minority. These minority religions stand at a critical crossroad concerning the freedom to express and to propagate ones religion or faith.

[3] Nepal is the co-signatory of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Article 18 of which clearly states "ones freedom to practice ones religion". The article 18.4 of the ICCPR gives parents and legal guardians the liberty to ensure religious and moral education to their children in conformity with their own faith. However, the managers of orphanages and children homes run by Christians and other minority religious groups are often accused of proselytizing the children for teaching them to pray and participate in religious functions. Nepal thus commits in theory to promote religious freedom in the country, yet the protection of this very fundamental right is not guaranteed equally to all citizens of Nepal. And the contentious issue of Freedom of Religion or Belief was not deliberately reported from the Government of Nepal during the first Universal Periodic Review (2011), although many treaty bodies had given intentional recommendations on the issue.

[4] Tanka Subedi's presentation in a sideevent of 23nd Session Human Rights Council in Geneva WEA on 18 September 2014. http://worldea.org/news/4475/political-changes-in-south-asia-threaten-people-of-faith-wea-co-sponsors-event-at-human-rights-council-in-geneva (cited on 29th January 2015, 14:25).

[5] http://setopati.com/chapa-bata/8878/

We would like to remind this council, there are evidences to suggest that heavy restrictions imposed upon freedom of religion and expression encourages serious instability in society by encouraging radical elements of dominant religious groups to marginalize and persecute members of religious minorities.

We further ask the UN Human Right Council to call upon the government of Nepal:

- To ensure Nepal as a secular country where the state maintains equal treatment to religious groups,
- To make sure the amendment of clause 26 of our new constitutions allows everyone to have:

a. Freedom to choose any religion or belief of his/her choice,
b. Freedom to voluntarily convert from one faith to another,
c. Freedom to manifest one's faith (worship, observe, practice and teach) individually or collectively, both in public or private,

- To provide legal procedures to have minority religious community to profess, practice and to possess own properties,
- To acknowledge the religious institutions that are in the country practices,
- To invite Special Rapporteur of Freedom of Religion or Belief to monitor the situation

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Hawa Society for Women, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-14947(E)

Please recycle

Impediment of democratic transformation progress and the damages of the unilateral sanctions

Closely paying attention of the democratic transformation, Sudan parliament amended the election law to give more chances to smaller political parties to participate, so as to reach to the zero equation instead of 4%, this resulted in participation of more parties in the parliament, to the percentage of more than 30%.

During election process on April 2015
Sudan Liberation Movement (SPLA) -north sector rejected the election operation in south Kordufan state .This was declared explicitly by Sudan liberation movement(SPLA} north sector while meeting with their forces , as transmitted in different social network sites, and threatening the citizens to participate.

He fulfilled his threats by attacking 4 areas using heavy weapons and artillery; resulting in death toll of 136 civilians. But the citizens challenged him by confining in the election process so, electoral process succeeded and a number of political parties participated

Also we would like to draw attention to the fact that the unilateral sanctions had a major role to deepen poverty among the citizens. This negatively affected every day life of children and women., especially in the conflict affected areas as it resulted in scarcity of life -saving drugs and increase of deaths among mothers and children of less Than 5 years age.

Therefore, we would like to call for:
1 / both parties to declare immediate cease-fire and observe it strictly.
2 / lift the unilateral sanctions which harmed the civilians specially in the conflict affected areas.

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Global Network for Rights and Development (GNRD), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-14948(E)

Please recycle

Freedom of Expression

The Global Network for Rights and Development welcomes this opportunity to address the Human Rights Council on the continuing efforts to improve international outlook for freedom of expression, particularly within the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

As everybody knows, the agenda includes eight anti-poverty targets known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), ranging from gender equality to the halving of extreme poverty. Despite the success of this framework—three of the eight goals were achieved before the deadline and the rest were narrowly missed— the issues which were not included warrant further attention and engagement.

Freedom of expression is among the subjects to be duly addressed after the proliferation of restrictive laws and the rise of **armed groups*** which today threaten the free flow of information and the exchange of ideas. Indeed, this fundamental right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is often limited by the authorities' recourse to various practices that may include censorship, restrictive press legislation, and the harassment of journalists, bloggers and others who express their opinions in public, online or in print.

This kind of intimidation also occurs in other areas of the online world. Technology has afforded individuals new possibilities to enjoy their human rights at ever-higher levels. In the exercise of freedom of expression, the role played by innovation and proliferation of technologies is even more remarkable thanks to the use of blogs and social media. Now citizens can express their own views easily as well as seek, receive and impart information on an unprecedented scale. It is clear that, thanks to the availability of a whole range of new means of communication, individuals are increasingly empowered to disseminate information in different ways. However, while benefiting from the new technologies individuals also expose themselves to new risks in relation to the human rights not only of their own but also those of others associated with them through blogs or other forms of expression.

When referred to in the context of the freedom of expression, violations are often inflicted by governments. In various parts of the world, regimes have misused laws to persecute political opponents and minorities. Some of them intend to dissuade citizens—including journalists, bloggers and other individuals who share their opinions—from creating their own sites by mandatory registrations of online media with public authority. Others strive to block and filter the content available on the net, while the rest channel their efforts into hampering the access of citizens to new technologies.

In this context, we have observed a positive global reaction to addressing this situation. Recent reports are looking to the United Nations to set a transformative agenda that is both universal and adaptable to the conditions of each country and each people. Amidst the post-2015 development debate, civil society and non-governmental organisations, governments and other relevant stakeholders called for strengthening effective, accountable, participatory and inclusive governance, for fair justice systems, for peaceful societies and, above all, for the freedom of expression, information and association.

These requests, in which freedom of speech played a prominent role, were in response to the lack of importance given the subject in the post-2015 development debate. This takes us back to November 2014, when various stakeholders expressed disappointment that there was no specific reference to the right to freedom of expression and information. This statement came after studying the list of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), where

number 16 seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Nor does Goal 16.10, which aims to ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements adequately or explicitly address the issue of freedom of expression.

GNRD in accordance with its mission to enhance and promote both human rights and development, believes that freedom of expression, free, independent and pluralistic media, and media development should be fully and deeply integrated into the universal post-2015 Development Agenda.

Freedom of expression and information plays a vital role in the sustainable development process of any society and allows the rest of the rights to flourish. At an individual level, it is fundamental to the fulfilment of every person, as well as intrinsic to the dignity and development of the subject. At the same time, at a national level, the free exchange of ideas contributes to guaranteeing free debate, good governance and the promotion of human rights. Following this line, the organisation considers freedom of expression the heart of democratic systems and condemns censorship in all its forms because of its often unjustifiable nature.

However, we understand freedom of expression is not absolute and can be limited when it conflicts with other rights, such as the ones related to personal privacy or honour. It is important to acknowledge, however, that freedom of expression is the rule. Restrictions are the exception, and permitted only to protect the rights of others, national security or public order.

It is the first exception cited above which concerns the Global Network for Rights and Development. On 27 May this year, the Norwegian police brutally invaded the headquarters of our organisation and confiscated a large number of documents that it claimed were needed for obtaining evidence of what it mistakenly believed to be a hidden and criminal financing of our NGO. The police also raided the home of GNRD's president and subjected him and his family to abusive treatment well outside the legally defined remit of the authority. Then, in clear disregard of all known judicial and police procedures across the democratic world, 10 days after the incident the false and baseless accusations on which the police based its raid on GNRD were leaked to Norwegian media, which started attacking the GNRD, embellishing the leaked police comments with additional unfounded rumours. It is not clear yet why the information on the raid was withheld during this period and then was leaked simultaneously to selected news outlets. It is not clear either why certain Norwegian media continued publishing defamatory articles, lacking any basis in fact, in what clearly was a vilification campaign against the organisation and its president.

Both the vilification campaign and the leaks persist. These are leaks because the reports draw on information available only the police. A Norwegian newspaper recently published a scan purporting to show a financial transfer made by one of our donors, not only revealing his identity but also the transferred amount. Again, if true, this could only have come from one source: the Norwegian police. The publication of this document makes us wonder, once again, who in the Norwegian police or government is responsible for leaking all this confidential information to the media and what is the purpose of their action?

In the process the reputation of the GNRD may have been harmed. The reprehensible attempt at media vilification backfired in one sense because the reported transaction, if true, was anything but secret and would have formed part of GNRD's independently audited accounts, which the police still holds. Nevertheless, we must equivocally state that the funds transferred to the GNRD are donations that come from licensed companies that have chartered audit and accounting firms in their employ. The origins of the funds are crystal

clear, audited at both ends, ie the source and the destination, and free from any kind of criminality, as alleged in this arbitrary action. Thus, all donations are spent on the humanitarian and human rights projects, administrative expenses, staff salaries, as well as daily expenses, or to cover the rent of GNRD offices around the world.

Norwegian media have exceeded their right to tell others what they think or guess. Their accusations are in flagrant disregard of and conflict with Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which protects the reputation and honour of an individual and forbids any kind of interference with that individual's privacy or correspondence.**

Despite all the attacks we suffered, the GNRD will always work for the defence of human rights, including freedom of expression. Indeed, reinforcing the right to freedom of speech and improving journalists' professional circumstances are our general recommendations for the future. From the standpoint of our organisation, all UN member states should support the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. Besides, leadership programmes in journalism, where a selection of top journalists from different regions are brought in to discuss current affairs, exchange ideas, and provide updates about the challenges in reporting, should be created.

The international community should also place the rights of media workers to the top of its agenda. It is also important to strengthen the journalists' employment rights and media workers. In this line, fair contracts for all should be provided and the exploitation of freelance workers should come to an end. But warning public authorities about the negative effects of interfering with critical reports—critical to their interests—by media, bloggers or any other individual, should be a must.

The progress of technology is another important fact to take into consideration. Despite the advantages in communications, which certainly have developed new ways of promoting freedom of expression, there are also a substantial number of challenges as a consequence. Regarding this matter, the EU Council said, "*all human rights which exist offline must also be protected online, in particular the right to freedom of opinion and expression*."

Freedom of expression is one of the most precious rights included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, indispensable for every human being. Free opinions, thoughts and expressions are major foundations for democracy, peace and development of a State. Governments have within their duties the obligation to protect and promote the rights to hold free opinions and thoughts, as well as to facilitate the flow of information through independent media. From these lines, the Global Network for Rights and Development urges to place freedom of expression talks at the centre of the post-2015 development agenda debate.

* It refers to terrorist groups, such as the Daesh, which control the flow of information in the territory they occupy.

** Article 12 declares, "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks."

United Nations A/HRC/30/NGO/54

General Assembly

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Global Network for Rights and Development (GNRD), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-14949(E)

Please recycle

Women's Rights

The Global Network for Rights and Development (GNRD) is an international human rights organisation committed to promoting and protecting human rights and development. In these times, when more people than ever recorded have fled their homes to seek refuge elsewhere, GNRD would like to draw attention to the important issue of women and girls living in danger and fear in refugee camps and other areas providing them with temporary shelter.

The world is going through a global humanitarian crisis. Worldwide displacement is at the highest level ever recorded, having risen to 59.5 million forcibly displaced persons at the end of 2014. Compared to 51.2 million the previous year, it is the highest increase ever seen in a single year[1]. According to UNHCR there are currently over four million registered Syrian refugees[2], and by the end of last year, Syria had become the world's top source country of refugees. On average, almost one out of every four refugees is Syrian, with 95 per cent located in surrounding countries[3]. Four out of five of those who have fled are women or children[4].

For women and girls, having fled from their homes because of violence and danger, becoming a refugee does not mean they are safe. They continue living in fear, often subject to violence and danger. Syrian women and girls report experiencing higher levels of harassment and exploitation as refugees than they did in their home country. Among reasons for this are that they are seen as strangers in their new communities, taking advantage of resources they are not entitled to, and also that people are aware of them being refugees, and therefore vulnerable. There is widespread impunity for perpetrators of crimes against refugee women. Many of the victims do not see going to the police as an option as they are rarely sympathetic and can even be perpetrators of the crimes. Furthermore, women and girls report being sexually harassed and exploited by persons charged with delivering humanitarian aid, and persons with economic and/or political power in the communities[5].

The fear of harassment and abuse has led many women and girls to stay at home in their house or tent, instead of going out. They report feeling isolated and imprisoned in their own homes. In this way their right to freedom of movement is being severely limited. Moreover, the fear of harassment and sexual abuse leads to many parents pulling their daughters out of school, which has obvious negative effects on the lives of those girls.

Despite many women and girls staying in their homes for the majority of their time, they are still not safe. There are multiple reports of women and adolescent girls experiencing increased domestic violence as refugees. One of the probable causes for this is when men are not able to work or provide for their families, therefore not fulfilling the typical "male role", they turn their frustration towards their wives and children. It is a very prevalent problem for female refugees. Unfortunately not much focus is given to the problem, as it is often seen as outside of the "traditional" aid mandate[6].

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[1] http://www.unhcr.org/558193896.html
[2] http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php
[3] http://www.unhcr.org.uk/about-us/key-facts-and-figures.html
[4] http://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/page_wrappers/assets/syria/pdf/IRC_WomenInSyria_Report_WEB.pdf
[5] http://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/page_wrappers/assets/syria/pdf/IRC_WomenInSyria_Report_WEB.pdf
[6] http://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/page_wrappers/assets/syria/pdf/IRC_WomenInSyria_Report_WEB.pdf

Another consequence of the danger women face is that forced child marriage has become much more frequent among Syrian refugees. Among reasons for this are that families feel they cannot protect their daughters and fear them being attacked, or they resort to premature marriage of their daughters for financial reasons. In Jordan the proportion of registered marriages in the Syrian refugee community where the bride was under 18 rose from 12% in 2011 to 25% in 2013. This number has reportedly increased in other surrounding countries. Numbers also indicate that girls are being married to older males[7]. The fatal consequences of child marriage are many and well known; lack of education, higher risk of domestic violence, isolation, poor access to sexual and reproductive health, poverty, and the higher risk of dying in childbirth, are a few.

As women and children make up the majority of refugees, there also needs to be a strong focus on helping them and listening to their needs. Female refugees face a series of human rights violations when living in refugee camps. They live in constant fear which largely impacts their freedom of movement. They have little access to information, education, and health services, and young girls often experience being forced into marriage. When states fail to make these women and girls safe they are in violation of numerous CEDAW articles, general recommendation 19 regarding violence and harassment toward women, and general recommendations 30 and 31 regarding violence and discrimination towards female refugees. Furthermore, states disregard the principles of the Beijing Platform for Action, specifically the articles relating to women's health, female refugees, violence against women in vulnerable situations, and child marriage.

GNRD calls for:

- Governments and NGOs to have discussions with female refugees, and listen to what they see as the greatest challenges in their lives.
- Governments and NGOs to empower women and girl refugees by informing them on health and their rights and arrange social activities, thereby creating networks for women.
- Governments and NGOs to offer economic support and incentives for refugee families who do not marry off underage girls.
- Governments and NGOs to educate and inform parents and community leaders in refugee camps/areas on the dangers and consequences of early marriage.
- Governments and NGOs to offer free, accessible, and quality education for refugee girls.
- Governments to carry out an effective implementation of existing laws and legislation on early marriage and violence against women in refugee areas.

[7] http://www.savethechildren.org/atf/cf/%7B9def2ebe-10ae-432c-9bd0-df91d2eba74a%7D/TOO_YOUNG_TO_WED_REPORT_0714.PDF

- Governments and NGOs to set up quality services in refugee camps and areas, which offer both physical and psychological support to survivors of gender-based violence.

- Governments and NGOs to effectively address domestic violence in refugee camps and areas, and to see it as a societal problem, not a private one.

- Governments and NGOs to create spaces for all refugees to be empowered and challenge cultural attitudes and practices.

United Nations A/HRC/30/NGO/55

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Global Network for Rights and Development (GNRD), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-15009(E)

Please recycle

Immediate Protection for Children in Yemen

Children living in the midst of armed conflict are disproportionately affected by violence, and are often the most susceptible to exploitation, sexual abuse, and other physical and mental harm. Some children are stripped of their innocence and forced to take up arms, while most others are invariably the first to succumb to malnutrition and disease. When communities are faced with food shortages and aid blockades, children inevitably suffer, and are denied the basic rights afforded them under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and international humanitarian law.

Such conditions have rapidly proliferated in Yemen, where over 400 children have been killed and over 600 others injured. Hundreds of thousands of children now live in appalling conditions that are largely caused by widespread use of child soldiers, unlawful killing, rape and other acts of sexual violence, abduction, enslavement and forced marriage, displacement and blockage of or obstruction to humanitarian aid, and indiscriminate use of heavy artillery and other deadly weapons.

Many of the Yemeni non-state armed groups are exploiting these vulnerabilities of children, including trauma suffered as they are caught in the midst of conflict. These unlawful entities recruit the children after seeing their relatives killed, schools shelled and communities destroyed, then deploy them in all sorts of activities for which the children are unsuitable. Last May, the UN secretary-general published a detailed report citing all violations against children in armed conflict, which found that many sectors of Yemen's national armed forces, such as the First Armoured Division, as well as Al Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) enlisted children as soldiers. There are different forms of engaging children in combat: some are used directly in fighting, others for wider distribution of weapons, or they are used as cooks, spies, messengers, or even for sexual exploitation, especially if they happen to be girls. According to UNICEF, one third of non-state armed militias in Yemen are comprised of minors under the age of 18. The United Nations has observed young boys serving in Houthi forces manning checkpoints, driving armed vehicles, and guarding buildings.

Article 4 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, to which Yemen is a party since 2007, clearly states that non-state armed groups *"...should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18."*

In addition to the suffering from such atrocities, the armed conflict in Yemen not only continues to cause violations of children's rights to life and physical integrity, but also deprives them of their basic economic, social and cultural rights. They are denied access to school, and have limited access to food, doctors, medical care and justice. Moreover, the violence has left countless children homeless and separated from their parents.

One of the main objectives of Global Network for Rights and Development (GNRD) is to protect the civilian population, in particular children, from the adverse effects and dangers of military action, and to enhance their right to life, human dignity, education and development, with the child's best interest always as the foremost priority. Consequently:

- GNRD is deeply concerned about the harmful and widespread impact of armed conflict on the physical and mental development of children, and the long-term consequences for human security, durable peace and sustainable development, particularly in the on-going Yemeni conflict. We implore this Council to pass an urgent resolution that will address the deteriorating humanitarian situation and protect vulnerable groups including children and women.

- We believe that more targeted measures should be carried out by this Council to hold parties who commit violations against children in situations of conflict accountable for their actions and bring them to justice through existing legal mechanisms.

- GNRD condemns all practices of the recruitment, training, and use of children within and across national borders in hostilities by armed groups and all non-State actors. We strongly call on all parties to discontinue the use of child soldiers.

- We also call on all parties to this conflict to immediately cease hostilities in and around civilian areas, and restore full humanitarian aid to all affected groups.

- We urge UN Member States to increase global humanitarian funding to aid children who have been negatively affected by conflict, specifically in order to expand reintegration programmes for children who have been the victims of military recruitment. These children must not only be released, but receive continued psychological care to minimize the severe mental health impact of such traumatic experiences.

- Furthermore, GNRD strongly urge all parties to the conflict to guarantee that any further military action adheres to the provisions of international humanitarian law. The parties in conflict must respect their commitments towards civilians, medics, and aid workers caught in the conflict, and cease the targeting of civilians including refugee, child, and medical centres. Additionally, we urge all parties to the conflict to take steps to facilitate the safe transit and operation of medical staff in the area, and to allow immediate access to areas where their services are required.

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 10
Technical assistance and capacity-building

Written statement* submitted by the International Educational Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[27 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-15011(E)

Please recycle

Moving forward to the rule of law, good governance, and judicial reform in Somalia*

International Educational Development, Inc. and the Association of Humanitarian Lawyers have worked on the situation in Somalia for a number of years.[1] Our most recent report—prepared for the UNHRC's 24th session—called for prioritizing judicial reform.[2] In this statement we provide comments on the current situation in Somalia, the two visits of the Independent Expert, and suggestions for achieving the goals of the rule of law and good governance

The current situation in Somalia

The situation in Somalia in 2015 has seen a marked deterioration of security evinced by armed attacks against humanitarian workers, bombing attacks in Mogadishu, an attack in April in Garowe against UNICEF personnel, a June 2015 car bomb attack at a AMISOM base that killed more than 50 Burundian soldiers. The humanitarian situation also remains dire, with food security and largescale displacement of the civilian population primary concerns. The situation in the IDP camps is particularly distressing. The political situation is volatile, with President Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud delaying the elections planned for 2016 due to al-Shabab violence. The human rights situation remains critical with continuing gender-based violence and rapes, curtailment of rights essential to the democratic process such as freedom of expression and the safety of journalists, and the conditions in prisons falling far short of the Standard Minimum Rules.

United States President Obama's July 2015 visit to Kenya highlighted the serious situation in Somalia while stressing the importance of the regional military cooperation. He also stressed the importance establishing regional security and the role of a secure Somalia in this regard. The Security Council has authorized the member states of the African Union to continue deployment of AMISOM.

Activities of the Independent Expert

We were pleased that the Independent Expert was able to carry out two missions to Somalia and that he was able to address concerns we have raised in our written and oral statements such as the compelling need for judicial reforms and the unacceptable numbers of custodial rapes. For example, in stressing the need for judicial reforms, he voiced concerns that the lack of resources and the negative role of military courts were undermining effort in this regard.[3] He further noted the lack of capacity of police forces to investigate and prosecute victims of rape as well as the need for increased recruitment of both men and women in the police forces.[4]

Continued need for action regarding judicial reform

While the need for judicial reform is eminently clear, formulating recommendations and actually carrying them out is especially challenging given the current situation in Somalia.[5] We have commented on the fragmentation of the judiciary, with military courts, civilian courts, traditional courts (Shari'a and Xeer for example), piracy initiatives, and other systems in competition. There is a dire need for harmonizing these and in a way that meets minimum international

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[1] Association of Humanitarian Lawyers researcher Tabeetha Sun assisted in the preparation of this document. Please see our prior statements: A/HRC/15/NGO/73, A/NRC/16/NGO/41, A/HRC/17/NGO/15, A/HRC/19/NGO/36, A/HRC/20/NGO/41, A/HRC/21/NGO/56 and A/HRC/22/NGO/61.

[2] International Educational Development, *Judicial Reform in Somalia*, A/HRC/24/NGO/23 (28 August 2013). Available at: http://www.undocs.org/A/HRC/24/NGO/23.

[3] See press statements of 13 December 2014 (UN News Centre), 15 December 2014 (OHCHR News events) and 15 December 2014 (UNOG).

[4] See press statement of 28 May 2015 (UNSOM).

[5] Some of points we have made regarding the clear need for a functioning and independent judiciary include the need to better protect the right to justice for citizens, help Somalis gain more confidence in the FGS. Having a strong judiciary will also help combat crime and lead to quicker resolutions of civil issues, including land and contract disputes. It will also create more transparency in the government and help to counter corruption. Moreover, it will lead to job creation within the justice sector. Significantly, if the judicial system in Somalia is effectively reformed, it will provide a solid foundation from which human rights can be both promoted and protected.

standards. At the same time, there is an equally dire need for resources for everything from actual structures (schools, courts, prisons and police facilities), training, documentation, oversight and the like. As we have indicated in the past, a roadmap to comprehensive judicial reform would greatly assist in these endeavors. We have submitted an outline for such a roadmap for reform to the Independent Expert after his encouragement in this regard at the 27th session of the Council. We anticipate that he will continue this effort and again pledge our assistance.

As our organizations have pointed out, judicial reform in Somalia is impossible without substantial support from the international community; relying on purely internal resources when there are so many competing and dire situations will bring little change for perhaps another generation. Setting out a roadmap for judicial reforms can encourage the international community to contribute resources for it on a piece by piece bases rather than in lump funds that are difficult to account for or whose effectiveness is difficult to assess. For example, a State that has experience or interest in providing training for police personnel may do so with confidence that the funds will be properly accounted for and the outcomes properly evaluated. Other States may choose to aid in the building of facilities such as courts or law libraries. Still others may prefer assisting in the harmonization of the many disparate systems or assisting in reforms to meet international standards. In this regard, we propose that donor entities interested in judicial reform develop some type of team, with the Independent Expert and the Federal Government of Somalia, so as to act in concert and in a rational manner based on priorities.

Conclusions

Somalia continues to be the country with what seems to be the most problems and the least capacity to address them. Somalia is also located in a very critical part of the world and its security and stability are essential to regional security and stability. The international community as a whole should work in concert to achieve both security and stability in Somalia and the region.

The Independent Expert has carried out his work with commitment to the Somali people and with sensitivity to the many competing issues at stake. His efforts have been comprehensive and highly useful. As he continues his mandate, we urge the international community as a whole and the Council and its mandate holders in particular to support his work and to provide assistance where useful. We especially urge all interested States to review ways in which they can work with the Independent Expert on judicial reform and to provide meaningful resource assistance for judicial reform as a matter of the highest priority.

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*Association of Humanitarian Lawyers, NGO without consultative status, also shares the views expressed in this statement.

United Nations A/HRC/30/NGO/57

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 10
Technical assistance and capacity-building

Written statement* submitted by the Eastern Sudan Women Development Organization, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-15012(E)

Please recycle

Capacity Building for Civil Society Organization

Civil Societies Organization were the first who wishfully receive the transfer of Independent Expert mandate from item four to item ten that the new mandate would support building the capacities of the civil societies from one side and would put the civil societies in position to incur its responsibility concerning monitoring human rights situation in Sudan.

Sudanese Civil Societies urged in arrangement for setting plans, programs, framing its technical needs that satisfies the Independent Expert 's request in accordance with item ten, but unfortunately they have received no any technical assistances on the same time the some assistances had been diverted to other civil societies ambiguously .
Civil societies are the safe guard to grant monitoring human rights situation because its geographical wide spread distribution , grass roots associates, that would qualify them to conduct studies site surveys and would enable them to engage with international institution and legal tools Human rights Council which render it's the most important tools in foster human rights values in whatever country .

Ostensibly therefore the technical assistance are very essential tool for the Indecent Expert as most efficient in Sudan .
Its quire vivid the failure of the international community to abide by its obligation towards the mandating the ex - independent Expert mandate for Sudan in regard to the providing the needed technical support as indicated in his Human Rights Council Report stemming from the realities exerting the international community to qualify its promises .

The success of the Independent Expert in any country would present a model for the efficiency of the Human Rights role in fostering ,protecting human rights by all means not only listening to the periodical reports concerning the mandate that may need development in context.

Regarding success of the Human Rights Expert concerning human rights situation in Sudan necessitate the establishment of strong civil society to play its role in fostering ,protecting human rights in Sudan the core goal that we are targeting all

Sudan mandate Independent Expert provided tremendous efforts to gain success in its mandate which depend on providing technical assistance but in vain .

Hereby we call for the termination of the independent expert mandate and rely only on the international Human Rights tools to provide the needed technical assistance and to call upon the donors to respond positively to the Sudanese Civil societies Appeal.

Thank you.

United Nations A/HRC/30/NGO/58

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Eastern Sudan Women Development Organization, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-15013(E)

Please recycle

The impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the human health in Sudan

USA have imposed unilateral sanctions on Sudan since 1997.The negative economic impacts of these sanctions on Sudanese citizens are considered clear human rights violations with direct negative impact on Sudanese's civil community .The most affected sector of the community were women ,children, elders disabled .poor' and patient.

The unilateral sanctions exacerbated the acuteness of some all the dieses for instance malnutrition particularly among children and women.

The depletion of clean drinking water had contributed in the spread of dieses and mortality rate. There is a lack of medical equipments, life medicine; for instance there is hundred thousand Sudanese who suffered from kidney failure and caner .The number of the hospitals that can treat these patients suffered from kidney failure ,cancer chemically or by radiation rays are not sufficient.

The direct impact of the sanctions on the public health sector increases the spread of the dieses and exacerbated the morality rate as normal consequence of the following factors:

1- The non availability of the microscope equipments , micro diagnosing tools for epidemic dieses it resulted in unnecessary delay for the confirmation of lapidary results foe epidemic dieses .
2- The difficulty of importing of some USA made medical equipments and tools negatively impacted the safety of food processing.
3- The steadily increasing in the prices of the imported medical equipments related to the medicine of the epidemic dieses and the pre-care.
4- The non availability of the vaccine for epidemic dieses like hemorrhagic fever .Also the current dieses like malaria ,TB, HIV, Belharsiasesa, diahrrial illnesses, pneumonia which are considered medical priorities .Theses dieses are considered the most common cause of mortality among at risk groups such as women, children, elderly and those who suffer from poverty.

The survey studies indicated that:

1- 75% out the population (24 million) are vulnerable to malaria disease and 25% spread the disease.
2- The yearly morbidity rate is 7.430 per 100.000 in the population .the mortality rate is 3.6 per 100.000 in the population .
3- To identify HIV it necessitates sample collection and kind of diagnosing needs USA made equipments this cause led to a delay in diagnosing HIV disease .
4- The economic sanctions impacted the information technology negatively in the context of scientific information, qualifying the working cadre in the medical field in the country and the successive excuse of the specialist institutions to conduct training courses capacity building in Sudan in line with the USA sanctions

We a civil society operating in human rights field, humanitarian assistance for the needy people, accordantly we call for international community to speed up uplifting of these sanctions so as to facilitate the delivery of these services. ***Theses*** sanction are inhumane, all in violation of all the international conventions that are appealing for peace, human dignity, freedom.

We call for the special Rapporteur on negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures to make some arrangements towards the Sudan sanction's file.

Thank you

United Nations A/HRC/30/NGO/59

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 9
Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-15014(E)

Please recycle

Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims

Xenophobia and discrimination against minorities is widely condemned in international human rights declarations, conventions, treaties, and all meetings. However, Muslims are still facing a variety of discrimination all over the world, including verbal harassment, hate speech, violent attacks and religious profiling.

One of the root causes of the unfair treatment of Muslims is the bitter reality that some religious extremist groups are committing violent crimes in the name of Islam. For example, ISIS, ill-famed by the atrocities presented, is being known in the media mainstream as a Muslim Extremist group. These extremists however, present a wrong picture of Islam through their negative practices that have nothing to do with noble Islamic values and teaching. [1] They tend to interpret the religious scripture in a selective manner so as to justify their illogical, inhuman decisions.

As a consequence, Muslims turn to be the biggest victims of religious extremism in the world. Because, actions of extremists and violence seekers, create waves of Islamophobia across the world, which results in presenting a dark and unreal image of Islam along with a tendency to reject, marginalize Muslims and discriminate against them.

When the crimes committed by religious extremist groups get full media coverage, they trigger a phobia toward Muslims. As a result, numerous cases of harassment and threat toward Muslims, their religious sites or buildings are reported. Such as the attacks to Muslim mosques across Europe.

This is while many Muslims face much more serious problems as they get dead or injured because of involvement in conflicts created by extremists. According to the United Nations, over 220,000 Syrians have been killed, and almost half of the country's men, women and children have been forced to flee their homes since the conflict in Syria erupted in March 2011. The spread and intensification of the fight have led to a dire humanitarian crisis with millions internally displaced or seeking refuge in neighbouring countries and many of these people have been Muslims.[2]

ODVV strongly believes that the fight against Xenophobia should unite the world as this phenomenon, including practices of racial and religious profiling, is present to all societies. Accordingly ODVV calls upon the states and the Human Rights Council to:

- Arrange panel discussions, in the council to study and discuss various aspects of Islamophobia, consider the best practices done by the States and NGOs to deal with the issue and offer recommendations on how to approach the problem.

- Encourage the media to do its best in illustrating a real picture of minority groups such as Muslims so as not to create atmosphere.

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[1] http://islam.ru/en/content/story/oic-chief-global-action-fight-islamophobia-needed
[2] https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/syria

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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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Please recycle

Briefing on the situation in Arakan and developments in Naypyitaw

Amidst the political and humanitarian crises faced by Rohingya people in Arakan, a powerful tropical cyclone had made its landfall in Arakan, setting off a new wave of humanitarian crises in several townships in the Arakan state. On the political side, the date for the General Election in Myanmar is set for 8 November, 2015. While the ruling military's USDP-dominated Government continues to deny the basic rights and citizenship of Rohingya and reject their ethnic identity, it has renewed its old strategy—reminiscent to what USDP did in the 2010 General Election— to secure the votes from Rohingya. Simultaneously, the main opposition party of the Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, reportedly has also taken dramatic steps against Muslims in Myanmar. Currently, the Rohingya are not in the voters' list issued by the Government.

Cyclone devastation at IDP camps and Rohingya villages

The powerful tropical cyclone, Komen, made its landfall in Northern Arakan state on 31 July, 2015, causing death and extensive damage to homes and properties due to high wind, seawater surge, and extensive flooding (Appendix photos). The areas worst hit by the storm in the Rakhine state are reportedly the townships of Minbya, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, Ann, Maungdaw, and Buthidaung, where a total of 463 villages have been submerged, three have been washed away, and the IDP camps in Arakan State are currently under water. Many quarters and villages in Maungdaw North, including Faizi, Khanry, Maungni, were partly submerged (by over six feet of water at some locations). The death of at least 18 Rohingya persons has been reported from various townships, and a number of individuals are unaccounted for. According to the reports from Maungdaw, which is a highly vulnerable coastal town, Myanmar Government officials have evacuated Buddhist Rakhine from the low-lying areas to highland in Maungdaw East a day before the landfall of the storm. Urgent relief supplies from the Government of Myanmar for the Buddhist Rakhine residents reportedly began to arrive at the Buddhist Rakhine shelter areas, according to eyewitnesses. The UN and International NGOs are reportedly surveying the areas and assessing the damage. Relief supplies for the Rohingya from international relief groups or from the Government of Myanmar have not arrived to date, according to sources in Arakan. Currently, Rohingya communities in various townships are providing shelters to the Rohingya families that have lost their homes. The continuous torrential monsoon rain is reportedly worsening the situation. Immediate humanitarian assistance is needed for the people affected by the storm.

The verification process and green card/pink card

Following the major outbreaks of violence against the Rohingya and Myanmar Muslims in 2012 and 2013 by the extremist Buddhists mobs organized by the "969" terror group and largely backed by the Myanmar police, Lon Htein, and BGP (formerly NASKA) forces, the situation in Arakan state has not improved. Over 140,000 Rohingya in IDP camps in Arakan are increasingly facing shortage of life-sustaining relief supplies, and the situation is dire at the peak of tropical monsoon and devastation by cycle, Komen.

As the General Election Day is rapidly approaching, the ruling Military's USDP has resumed its manipulation strategy against Rohingya. In July 2015, the Government of Myanmar introduced a new policy of selectively granting Green cards and Pink cards to Rohingya through a "Verification" process, which is a highly controversial policy developed by the Government quite some time ago. During the past two years, the Government has attempted to use this "Verification" scheme as a tool to prevent Rohingya IDPs from returning to their homes in various townships in Arakan. The attempts failed in the past due to non-cooperation by Rohingya, despite extensive physical abuse and arrests of Rohingya for their refusal to cooperate. After a relative lull for several weeks, the Government has reinvigorated the "Verification" process as another attempt to lure Rohingya with voting rights – and to secure the votes from Rohingya. This time the Government has proposed two types of cards for Rohingya:

The Green card. The Green card will be issued to Rohingya following the Verification process, forcing Rohingya to write "Bengali" in the form. The Government officials are pressuring Rohingya to accept the Verification and Green card to pave the way for naturalization. According to the 1982 Citizenship law instituted by the former military dictatorship, the 'Naturalized Citizens" are Class III Citizens with limited rights and the citizenship can be revoked if deemed necessary by Myanmar officials. However, the Class III citizens will be eligible to vote in the 2015 General Election. According to sources on the ground in Arakan, over 90% of Rohingya adults (over the age of 18 - the voting age) will fall into the Class III category.

The Pink card: The Pink card holders are Class I citizens (Full Citizenship) in Myanmar. The Government has reportedly proposed Pink card for Rohingya who are still in possession of the former National Registration Card (NRC), known as Thone Kauk Sho, or any Rohingya person who can document that he/she is an offspring of an NRC holder. According to sources from Arakan, these are less thsn 10% of the Rohingya and their offspring that could potentially receive the Pink card.

However, there is a catch in the Government's proposal with the cards – that is the Rohingya must write "Bengali" in the Green and Pink cards.

Myanmar Government forces and officials are putting enormous pressure on Rohingya people in Arakan to accept the Green Card/Pink Card plan. Rohingya people are reportedly not cooperating due to the nature of the scheme. There have been reports of widespread physical abuse such as beating and kicking of Rohingya household heads. There have been also reports of arrests in Maungdaw South village tracks.

The key in either of the cards is the term "Bengali" which automatically denotes that the Rohingya are "Illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in Myanmar", as the former Military Dictatorship and the present Government has alleged. There is nothing new in this new proposal by the Government. Reinventing the wheel time and again will not produce any lasting solution in Arakan.

It should be noted that the confiscation of documents from Rohingya by the former military dictatorship and non-issuance of any document to Rohingya people for over a period of 50 years have rendered Rohingya people without evidence of birth, residency, or the National Registration Card (NRC). Therefore, a Rohingya man or woman who is 50 years old or younger, will face a tremendous challenge to produce a government-issued document/evidence of birth or residency.

Anti-muslim moves by Aung San Suu Kyi's "NLD" party

According to reports from Yangon and Naypyitaw, the Executive Committee of NLD has removed all the Muslim officials and candidates from the party in preparation for the upcoming General Election. The Muslim members and officials have been with NLD for several years – most of them since the inception of the party. The reports further indicate that NLD is also in the process of voiding the general party membership for Muslims in all of Myanmar.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- We urge the government of Myanmar to deliver urgent assistance for the people, including Rohingya people, affected by the storm without any racial / religious / origin discrimination.
- We urge the government of Myanmar to stop selectively deciding who to grant Green cards or Pink cards among the Rohingya through the "Verification" scheme, which is a highly controversial policy developed by the Government.
- We urge the government of Myanmar to stop violence and mass killings against the Rohingya minority and consider the Rohingya people as part of the Myanmar people and allow them the nationality.

- We urge the Myanmar authorities to issue immediately the National Registration Card (NRC) to the Rohingya people, including information such as evidence of birth and residency

- MAARIJ calls upon the government of Myanmar to cancel its policy concerning the NLD party representing the Rohingya minority people in Myanmar.

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Please recycle

Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures – The Case of Sudan

The term "unilateral coercive measures" usually refers to economic measures taken by one State to compel a change in the policy of another State, including trade sanctions in the form of embargoes and the interruption of financial and investment flows between sender and target countries.

The imposition of unilateral measures by some states as instruments of political and economic coercion against developing countries clearly contradicts the principles of the charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law or the rules-based multilateral trading system, and undermines the principle of sovereign equality of States. The measures clearly oppose the spirit of the UN Charter that calls for the promotion of tolerance, international peace and security, the reinforcement of the principle of amicable cooperation in the international arena.

A total embargo imposed by the United States, the world's largest economy, on Sudan affected many fields of the country's economic activity, including agricultural production and related industries, health services, higher education and scientific research. It also reflected on economic hardship that affects the people, particularly women and children who are usually more vulnerable. The US embargo and its impact hinder the enjoyment of human rights by the people of Sudan, particularly the right to development, the right to food and the right to health. This consequently has adverse impact on the socio-economic welfare of women and children.

The practice of embargoes is not based on agreed international instruments and is contrary to numerous international resolutions. Economic sanctions that accompanied the conflicts in the Middle East, from Iraq to Palestine, for example, had often dramatic consequences, most of them known and predictable.

In the area of health, more than elsewhere, the method shown for years its limitations and the adverse effects of economic sanctions often far outnumber their advantages. The embargo prohibits or inhibits input of any reconstruction materials and limits the food and medical supplies. The degradation in the health sector is thereby worsened.

All cross-frontier points are closed to fuel and goods, and this closure usually aggravates an already deteriorating situation. In hospitals, pharmaceutical stocks suffer critical shortages, programmable surgery is often impossible and primary health care centres have to reduce their activities.

The shortage of fuel also has other consequences. Hospitals no longer have sufficient supply to power their generators and, during the power cuts, the functioning of services is limited to intensive care units, emergency and operating rooms. Drug arrivals are also very random. Pumping stations work only sporadically and access to clean water is scarce.

Recommendations:

- Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development urge the international community to denounce strongly embargos and protect civilian's rights.
- To protect and promote immediately Rights to Development
- To protect and promote immediately Rights to food
- To protect and promote immediately the Rights to health.

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Please recycle

The public space: an un-welcomed space for women in Egypt

Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) and feminists in Egypt are paying a hefty price for their activism and defense of various rights. While some continue their imprisonment for charges connected with breach of the infamous Protest and Public Assembly Law (No. 107 of the Year 2013), others face travel bans that they learn about by coincidence, and those who witness violations and choose to submit their testimonies as witnesses, become defendants, having their verdict of innocence get appealed by the Prosecution office.

An emblematic case is that of WHRD, Lawyer and Feminist Azza Soliman (Case No. 2841 for the year 2015), which is related to the killing of WHRD Shaimaa ElSabbagh during a peaceful protest on January 24, 2015 on the eve of the 4th anniversary of the January 25th revolution, comprising of 20 - 30 protesters commemorating the martyrs of the revolution. Ms. ElSabbagh was shot by bird pellets in the back, which led to severe bleeding in her chest cavity due to laceration of the heart and lungs, as stated in the Forensic Medicine Administration's autopsy report. Azza Soliman, WHRD, Lawyer and the Head of the Trustees Board in the Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance (CEWLA), witnessed the incident and when she voluntarily went to testify at the Prosecutor's Office, she herself was turned into a suspect and charges were directed at her that include rallying and participating in a demonstration that jeopardized public security. Even though she was acquitted on 23 May 2015, the prosecution office appealed the verdict and the Qasr ElNile Appeal Court will issue the verdict on 26 September 2015, which could issue a verdict to punish Ms. Soliman for her activism and the testimony she submitted.

Another important case is that of the seven WHRDs (Case No. 8429 for the year 2014) Ms. Sanaa Seif, Ms. Yara Sallam, Ms. Hanan Mustafa Mohamed, Ms. Salwa Mihriz, Ms. Samar Ibrahim, Ms. Nahid Sherif (known as Nahid Bebo) and Ms. Fikreya Mohamed (known as Rania El-Sheikh) arrested on 21 June 2014 for protesting peacefully against the Protest and Public Assembly Law (No. 107 issued on November 24, 2013). They were sentenced to three years imprisonment, 3 years monitoring and a fine of EGP 10,000 (USD 1398.60) by the Heliopolis Misdemeanor Court on October 26, 2014, and the Abbasia Appeal Court reduced the sentence to two years imprisonment and 2 years surveillance on December 28, 2014.

Other tactics to punish WHRDs is the issuance of travel bans, such as that issued against prominent WHRD Esraa AbdelFattah on 13 January 2015 (Case No. 25465 of 69 Judicial Year), who did not know she had a travel ban issued against her, and found out about it by coincidence when she was in the airport traveling to Germany. Moreover, the Administrative Court issued a verdict on 16 June 2015 confirming her travel ban.

In addition, a shocking lifetime imprisonment verdict and a fine of 17 Million Egyptian Pounds (USD 2,229,215.84) was issued on February 4, 2015 in the case known as the Ministerial Cabinet Case (Case No. 8629 for the Year 2011) by the Sayeda Zeinab Felonies Court, which its incidents date back to December 16 - 20, 2011 which included the infamous "blue-bra girl" incident, where among the 230 against which the verdict was issued are 8 WHRDs, including Hend Nafe', who is a staff member at Hisham Mubarak Law Center, and the Founder of "Watan Bila Ta'zib" (A Nation Free of Torture), in addition to a female minor among 38 minors who were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. The trial is currently being re-conducted for 29 defendants, including 3 WHRDs, one of whom was a minor, namely Ne'ama Ali Saeed Mesallam, during the concerned incidents. Her case has been transferred to the juvenile court and she has been released on April 8, 2015, while the other 2 are still detained since March 3, 2015, namely Shaimaa Ahmed Saad and Abeer Saeed Mohamed Mostafa. They are currently at Qanater Women's Prison and their next court session is scheduled for 3 September 2015. it is important to state that Mrs. Abeer Saeed Mohamed Mostafa is a 39 years old Woman Human Rights Defender (WHRD) and mother of a 22 years old son. Ms. Saeed has been subjected to torture during her arrest after the violent dispersal of the Ministerial Cabinet sit- in during 16 - 20 December 2011, which resulted in her sustaining a deep wound in her head that required 15 stitches approximately, based on information obtained from her. She also sustained a wound in the top of her left thigh as a result of being electrocuted with an electric stick, which more than 3 years later, is still causing her pain, and a mass has been formed in the place of the wound, and experiences numbness in her leg. Mrs. Saeed was volunteering in the field hospital at the time of the concerned sit-in to help the injured defendants by taking out the bird-pellet shots from their bodies and giving them injections needed as prescribed by field physicians.

Another example of the increasing verdicts against WHRDs is the one issued on the 9th of February, 2015 for Case No. 6868 for the year 2013, by El Raml Misdemeanor Court in Alexandria governorate against WHRD and Lawyer Mahienour El-Massry

along with other 9 activists from Alexandria to two years in prison and bail amounting to 5000 EGP (655.37USD) to suspend the verdict, over charges that include: Attacking and causing injuries to the police officers of El Raml Police Station; Breaking into the police station; Destruction of some of its contents; Disabling work flow along with terrorizing and intimidating citizens in March 2013. On 31 May 2015, the ElRaml Misdemeanor Court issued a verdict of imprisonment for Mahienour El-Massry and 2 other activists for one year and 3 months, and she is currently detained in Damanhour Women's Prison.

Sexual violence against women in the public space is another grave problem. A national strategy to combat violence against women has been announced and published on May 7, 2015, yet, we emphasize the importance of monitoring its implementation. Meanwhile, articles relating to crimes of rape, sexual assault and harassment in the Penal Code (Articles 267, 268, 269 and 289) are currently deficient in nature and do not address the epidemic of sexual assault as well as rape. It also fails to address the rights of the survivors and their protection when submitting reports. While the Penal Code recently defined and addressed sexual harassment in the new amendment to Article 306, the amendment is insufficient in its scope and the article is limited in nature and only considers a crime sexual harassment if the intent is proven to be related to obtaining sexual benefits. With the exception of the Tahrir mob-sexual assaults and gang rapes in June 2014 during the inauguration of President AbdelFattah ElSisi, no one has been held accountable for mob-sexual assaults and gang rapes committed since November 2012. Finally, in the recent feast in July 2015 mob-sexual assaults and sexual harassment were rampant in the streets and in particular in downtown areas, despite the fact that there was a presence from the security forces and the Administration to Combat Violence against Women in venues of crowds, and according to the Director of the concerned Administration, 86 perpetrators were arrested.

In regards to political participation, there are clear flaws within the current Egyptian government's approach to enabling women's participation. For instance, in the upcoming parliamentary elections there is a quota only on the absolute lists (There are 568 seats in parliament, 120 of which are reserved for the absolute lists) which will result in women having 56 seats out of 120. The law states that the president can appoint 3 -5 percent of the elected parliament or up to 27 members, half of which must be women (this law is not obligatory and the president may choose to appoint no parliament members or appoint any number- half of which must be women). Therefore, the representation of women could range between 10.374 percent (This is the case if the president does not appoint *any* members) and 14.65 percent (This is the case if the president decided to appoint all female members) at best. Despite the fact that this is a higher representation than the 2011/2012 parliament, it remains a low percentage for women, given that 420 seats will be elected based on first-past-the-post system and there is no quota set for women on the individual seats.

In addition, the parliamentary elections were postponed once more based on the Constitutional Court ruling on March 1st, 2015 that deemed the law on constituency division unconstitutional. Currently, there's no transparent timeline set for the elections by the government, and new legislations are drafted, reviewed and passed in the absence of an elected legislative body.

Accordingly, Nazra for Feminist Studies would like to make the following recommendations to the Egyptian government and the international community:

1. The Egyptian government must act in accordance with the standards of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and introduce national legislation to protect them from state and non-state actors, to recognize and enable their work.

2. The Protest and Public Assembly Law No. 107 issued in November 2013 needs to be revised, to allow the space for WHRDs to carry out their legitimate work in defending human rights, especially that this law is unconstitutional.

3. The Egyptian authorities need to take all measures to proceed with the processing of the Ittihadia Presidential Palace case in which 7 WHRDs have been sentenced as outlined above, at the Court of Cassation as quickly as possible to revoke the issued verdict.

4. The Egyptian authorities need to immediately and unconditionally revoke the travel ban issued against WHRD Esraa Abdel-Fattah, and to publicly announce the names of human rights defenders, WHRDs and activists against whom a travel ban is issued, in addition to publicly announcing the reason behind the concerned bans and the legal basis on which they are issued, and whether there are any charges directed at them or not.

5. Reform the penal code to punish all forms of violence against women and ensure its implementation to ensure women's access to justice.

6. Enact the implementation of the holistic and comprehensive national strategy to combat violence against women that was publicly announced on May 7, 2015, and legislation, which should contain provisions for its effective implementation through gender budgeting, evaluation and monitoring.

7. Investigate sexual violence violations committed against women since November 2012 and prosecute those responsible.

8. Enact legislation to mandate the regular collection of statistical data and research to ensure an adequate knowledge base for effective implementation and monitoring.

9. Call on the international community to push the Egyptian authorities to initiate a process that genuinely incorporates a transitional justice mechanism, that holds real perpetrators accountable and both recognizes the important human rights activism conducted by WHRDs, and ensures their protection.

10. The state should work towards having more women in the different judicial bodies need to include more women in different judicial bodies.

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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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Please recycle

Hazardous waste threatens Pacific islanders

Nearly 70 years after the start of U.S. nuclear tests and 20 years after the end of French atomic tests in the Pacific Ocean, Pacific islanders are worrying about the long term environmental impact of radioactive waste which has been stored by nuclear powers on the islands. In the Republic of Marshall Islands, people recently expressed concern that residential areas of Eniwetak Atoll have been washed over with radioactive waste, after the island was hit by Typhoon Nangka in July 2015.

Enewetak is a large coral atoll of 40 islands stretching over 80 kilometers. The atoll has been used by U.S. Army for 43 nuclear tests between 1948 and 1958. Between 1977 and 1980 a concrete dome was built on Runit Island to deposit radioactive soil and debris. Only three of the atoll's 40 islands were cleaned by US servicemen. The U.S. Defence Nuclear Agency (DNA) has carried out an eight-year-cleanup-operation, but the U.S. Congress refused to fund a comprehensive decontamination program to ensure the livelihood of the resettled local indigenous population which wanted to return to their homeland after the end of nuclear testing. The servicemen stocked the contaminated topsoil and radioactive debris in a 350-foot crater on Runit Island, covered by seals of cement. The 111,000 yards of irradiated debris are including Plutonium-239 which has a half-life of 24,000 years. This radioactive waste deposit in a crater of a nuclear bomb has never conceived to last for decades but was planned as a temporary measure until a permanent decontamination plan would have been decided and funded.

Since several years scientists and local population feared that parts of the hazardous waste deposit could break away, especially beneath the sea level. According to a 2013 report by the U.S. Department of Energy, soil around the dome is already more contaminated than its contents. Climate experts fear more danger from the exposure to extreme weather and by the impact of climate change. The atoll has been gradually submerged by the rising sea level provoked by climate change. Authorities have warned the local population to dig for copper around the nuclear waste dump because they could be exposed to harmful radiation. Scientists declared that there is a significant level of radioactive contamination in the soil and that any exposure to contamination through inhalation from dust in the soil should be avoided.

Eighteen months ago the U.S. Department of Energy has started a monitoring program, which involved regular visits to the islands and the collection of data. But Pacific islanders are blaming the US.authorities that there is not even a minimum protection around the nuclear waste deposit marking with a fence the hazardous place. After Typhoon Nangka in July 2015 has caused significant damage to homes and infrastructure on the atoll, people started fearing for their security. Fishermen complained that the cracks in the dome became bigger. They fear for their livelihood and existence because nuclear radiation would threaten their survival. Despite the fact that U.S.-experts have been reassuring the local population by claiming that the cracks didn't increase, indigenous fishermen are worried about the impact of climate change on the hazardous waste deposit.

Society for Threatened Peoples calls on the Human Rights Council to call on the U.S. authorities to ensure a long term solution for a better protection from nuclear waste in the Pacific Ocean in order to guarantee the livelihood of the indigenous population. Furthermore it should appeal to the U.S. authorities to launch a more comprehensive permanent monitoring program analyzing the medical, environmental and social impact of nuclear testing in the Pacific and to ensure maximum transparency in the protection of the local population.

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Please recycle

Arbitrary dention in Indonesia

Indonesia has emerged as a model for democracy in South East Asia. Since the fall of the Suharto regime in 1998, the country has adopted a more inclusive political system, reduced the military's authority, empowered local jurisdictions, achieved more stability across the archipelago, and sustained strong economic growth. The 2014 elections marked a crucial turning point for Indonesia's democracy. Following successful parliamentary elections in April, nearly 135 million Indonesians went to the polls in July of that year to directly elect their next president. The competitive race between Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, governor of Jakarta, and Prabowo Subianto, a former special-forces general, resulted in the most closely contested presidential election in the nation's history. But its transition to democracy has not been without setbacks and major challenges. Indonesia's ambitious programs of institutional reform and democratization have been marred by violent protests, ethnic and sectarian strife and movements calling for the respect of basic human rights and the right to self-determination.

Despite this democratization, the threats against human rights defenders in Papua and the Moluccas are on the rise. Society for Threatened Peoples welcomes the release of five Papuan political prisoners, announced during the visit of President Widodo in Papua in May 2015. But despite these positive developments, there were new arrests of Papuan activists in the last months. On 3 July 2015, some 40 indigenous Papuans were arrested during a prayer session in Fakfak (West Papua Province). The Papuans wanted have organized the event to thank the Melanesian Spearhead Group of Melanesian states for their support of the West Papua issue. Three men remain in detention and are facing trial for public order offenses.

Since May 2015, 264 people have been arrested by Indonesian police for supporting the West Papuan Independence movement "United Liberation Movement of West Papua (ULMWP)". Most of the arrests were made on May 1, 2015, in the towns of Merauke, Jayapura, Kaimana and Manokwari during ceremonies to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the administrative transfer of Papua to Indonesia. Three of the arrested Papuans are still imprisoned and will be put on trial.

Five members of the "Independent Papua Committee (KIP)", which is acting as a facilitator for talks of the authorities with pro-independence movements, were arrested on April 14 in Jayapura and imprisoned for three weeks under treason charges. Four of the five arrested representatives had met with the Indonesian Minister of Defense only four days before their arrest and wanted to report about their activities at a press conference in Jayapura.

In August 2015, at least 51 political prisoners from Papua still are held in Indonesian custody. Some of them have been reporting about abuse and torture during imprisonment. The arbitrary arrests are documenting that Indonesian authorities are trying by any means to oppress the public call for the right to self-determination of West Papua. Furthermore, we are very much concerned about arbitrary detention in the Moluccas Islands. At least 29 Moluccans still are jailed for peacefully raising banned symbols as the South Moluccan RMS flag or for advocating for more self-determination.

Society for Threatened Peoples calls on the Human Rights Council to urge Indonesia to stop arbitrary detention, to release all political prisoners and to ensure the freedom of expression in West Papua and the Moluccas.

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Please recycle

Uyghur human rights continue to fall victim to state policy

Society for Threatened Peoples recognizes the importance and influence of the Human Rights Council and urges member states and participating organizations to respond to grave human rights concerns facing the Uyghur people today.

Uyghurs continue to suffer under a government that has made few efforts to alleviate the most significant sources of conflict in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) of China. Religious practice has been severely limited, speech rights have been all but removed from acceptable exercise, freedom of movement continues to be restricted, and Uyghur culture is progressively diluted. Many of these practices have been severely sanctioned by the state and have resulted in the imprisonment of thousands – thousands left without adequate judicial safeguards imbedded within a system designed to suppress truth and the exercise of justice – along with hundreds seeking asylum outside the country.

Two significant areas of concern are highlighted:

Contentious counter-terror and anti-extremism policy eroding human rights protections

Recent counter-terror and anti-extremism legislation along with continued discriminatory regional policies have driven an even larger wedge between the ethnic Uyghur and Han, the two groups making up the most significant percentage of the population, and has spurred Uyghur flight. It is in the interest of the Uyghur people, the Chinese government and the international community to redouble its efforts to first recognize and understand the sources of instability and to then make determined efforts to resolve longstanding issues.

Measures ostensibly aimed at combatting terrorism in the region have laid waste to internationally recognized standards of human rights while countering terrorism. Counter-terrorism has subsequently emerged as a reliable justification for extrajudicial killings by police, mass arrests, arbitrary detention and the drafting of ever-more restrictive legislation in clear violation of not only China's international legal obligations, but its own Constitution, which affirms protections for freedom of speech, assembly, association, demonstration and religious belief.

There has been little or no indication thus far that Chinese authorities have remained respectful of these principles, instead relying on its own obstinacy as a guide. UN Security Council in Resolution 1456, which details the nature of counter-terrorism operations and stresses the importance of their adherence to internationally recognized human rights norms, has been altogether ignored. The justification of the use of force under the guise of a threat to security is certainly not a new one and has been well exploited by states particularly since the atrocious terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Of concern is its dangerously vague definition of terrorism and terrorist activities, its conflation of religious activity with extremism, its drastic expansion of surveillance programs, and the suspension of due process for the designation of terrorist organizations. These measures filter into almost all aspects of Uyghurs' lives, including their freedom of movement and religious and cultural practices.

China's additional legislation targeting religious extremism, introduced in November and put into effect in January, 2015, serves to further limit the exercise of religious practice among Uyghurs. According to the new restrictions, children under the age of 18 are barred from attending religious services or from entering mosques for prayer. Likewise, public service employees remain barred from religious practice during working hours and were most recently prohibited from fasting during the holy month of Ramadan in July, as has been the case over the past decade. The wearing of traditional headscarves and other religious dress as well as men donning beards has also been restricted.

Imams and other religious leaders now require vetting by state officials to ensure that they are strictly teaching within the bounds of what the government tolerates. Surveillance of mosques and the thorough screening of materials produced by religious leaders is now commonplace. China's intention to publish an exhaustive list of approved places of worship as a means to "root out" illegal religious activities is also of particular concern. The new controls will effectively bar

communal prayer and likely other religious activities from all but these designated locations – clearly in contravention of international human rights law and the freedom to practice one's religion.

Consequently, we call on China and all UN member states to uphold and respect international law in relation to legitimate threats and for those parties exercising unsanctioned activities to consider their immediate implications.

The right of refugees and asylum seekers consistently disregarded

China's continued discriminatory policies have led to an ongoing refugee situation in South East Asia and elsewhere, with the Chinese government flouting international law and the 1951 Refugee Convention, to which it is a state party.

109 Uyghur refugees were returned to China from Thailand on July 8th, 2015, despite widespread condemnation from the international community. The refugees were part of a larger group that had been held in immigration detention facilities across in Bangkok since March, 2014.

Although it was reported that the Thai government subsequently sent a delegation to China to check on the state of the Uyghurs who were returned, thus far there has been no official confirmation regarding the fate of the group. Consequences of their repatriation are likely to include dubious criminal charges used as a pretext to justify harsh punishment upon their arrival in China. The Chinese government has repeatedly called such escapees criminals and all those who are to be returned will most certainly be treated in such a manner.

Uyghur refugees and asylum seekers have been forcibly deported from states with strong trade and diplomatic ties to China. In December 2009, 20 were returned to China from Cambodia, another 5 from Pakistan and 11 from Malaysia in August, 2011, and another six again from Malaysia in what Human Rights Watch called a "grave violation of international law". In addition, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Burma, and Nepal have extradited Uyghurs to China and since 2001 at least 289 Uyghurs have been forcibly deported.

The act of forcibly repatriating refugees or asylum seekers is in clear infringement of well-established international law. The non-refoulement principle spelled out in the 1951 Refugee Convention requires that states do not allow for the forcible return of refugees or asylum-seekers to territories where their "life or freedom would be threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, member of a particular social group, or political opinion".

We therefore request that the parties concerned are held accountable for their actions and respond in kind in the context of the Human Rights Council.

At the heart of each of these issues is an unwillingness to understand or recognize root causes which continue to go unaddressed with the hope that the problem will resolve itself. Far from a reasonable approach, Chinese authorities maintain that instability should be met with unrestrained force targeting the Uyghur people. This will never serve as an appropriate response to violence and will only exacerbate an already perilous relationship between parties in the region and likely drive more towards violence. Violence begets violence, but it is crucial that we remember that peace begets peace, and understanding, understanding.

Society for Threatened Peoples calls on member and observer states at the Human Rights Council as well as international human rights organizations to recognize the situation for what it is – a genuine human rights problem for millions of Uyghurs living in Xinjiang – and exert pressure on the Chinese delegation to put on an end to the clear abuses.

United Nations A/HRC/30/NGO/66

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 September 2015

English only

Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 9
Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Written statement* submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-15037(E)

Please recycle

War on drugs threatens minorities in the U.S.

According to a 2011 survey published by the "Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)" of the US-Government some 10 percent of Blacks and Latinos have used cocaine, compared with nearly 20 percent of Whites. Higher percentages of Whites have also consumed marijuana, methamphetamine and hallucinogens. But Blacks still are arrested for drug possession in the US more than three times as often as Whites. Of all drug offenders sent to state prisons, African-Americans are 62 percent despite the fact that they only represent 12 percent of the US population. More than 25 million Americans have been arrested on drug charges since 1980, about one third of them were Black.

According to official US data the number of African-Americans in US prisons is disproportionate. In Georgia for example, some 54 percent of all prisoners are Blacks despite the fact that African-Americans only represent 29 percent of the population of this US state. In Arkansas, some 52 percent of the prisoners are African-Americans, but they are only 16 percent of the inhabitants. An even more disproportionate representation of Blacks has been found in Louisiana with 76 percent of all prisoners and 33 percent of the population. In Virginia some 68 percent of all prisoners are African-Americans, but only they are 20 percent of the inhabitants of this state.

There are many reasons for the higher percentage of African-Americans imprisoned as drug offenders. Drug transactions among Blacks are easier for police to target because they more often happen in public than drug transaction between Whites. The rampant racism among police and security services is the main reason for the alarming figures of arrested black drug offenders in USA. Police profiling focusing on African-Americans as drug offenders has not contributed to a remarkable progress in the US war on drugs. The war on drugs will not become more successful by criminalizing African-Americans disproportionately. Instead it will create more inter-ethnic tensions and social unrest. An effective campaign against the abuse of drugs should include more initiatives for new social and medical facilities in order to prevent young people from taking drugs or assisting drug victims. Imprisonment will not solve the drug problem, but further enhance the drug traffic and the dependence of young African-Americans of this illegal trade. Especially in US prisons the war on drugs has failed to show any convincing results. Therefore these prisons became the most important drug trafficking markets in USA.

Society for Threatened Peoples calls on the Human Rights Council to urge the US-Government to ensure that the war on drugs will no longer threaten ethnic minority people in a disproportionate way. The Council should especially call on US authorities to create a commission to review the impact of the war on drugs on ethnic minorities and to create more social and medical facilities in order to prevent the abuse and illicit traffic of drugs.

United Nations A/HRC/30/NGO/67

General Assembly

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Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[30 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-15120(E)

Please recycle

Situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

As the government in Damascus proceeds with undiminished brutality (barrel bombs, rocket launchers, tanks, artillery) against the Sunni opposition and the Sunni civil population, radical armed groups like the "Islamic State" or the "al-Nusra Front" continue their merciless prosecution of minorities.

According to UNHCR around 4.013.000 people fled into Syria´s neighboring countries by now. In Syria itself 7,6 million people are on the run (updated: July 9th 2015). Since the war broke out four years ago around 250.000 People have been killed.

Many refugees found shelter in northern Syria. Hence, we are witnessing with great concern the approach of the Turkish armed forces which seems to proceed first against Kurdish positions and villages in northern Syria rather against positions of the "Islamic State" – according to our information.

Correspondingly, the journal "Radikal" reported that during assaults on the PKK in Iraq on July 24th 2015, 75 Turkish fighter Jets have been used – whereas during bombardments on IS-positions in Syria only three. Eyewitnesses which we estimated as being reliable reported that in the early hours of morning on July 25th 2015 positions of Kurdish People´s Protection Units (YPG) in the village of Zormaghr west of Kobani were attacked by Turkish tanks and artillery and that Turkish fighting jets charged the village of Hillel south of Kobani which had been freed by Kurdish militiamen on July 31th 2015 between 9.00 and 11.00 o´clock.

This approach, especially in northern Syria, has the potential to result in catastrophic consequences for the humanitarian situation in Europe as a whole. Despite the fact that the attacks of the Turkish government are conducive to the weakening of one of the most important Allies against the "Islamic State", it destabilizes furthermore one of the last Syrian Territories in which it was possible until now to establish some kind of security for the local people and spare them the asylum homes in Europe, America and Australia.

Especially religious and ethnic minorities – like Christian Aramean-Assyrians, Arameans or Yezidis which have to suffer to a great extent in the residual Syria – found shelter in territories controlled by the Kurds in northern Syria. Our human rights organization is in the process to start a dialogue with the local responsible authorities concerning the watchful observation on human rights. Certainly there are deficits in this subject; but we can prove due to eyewitnesses that minorities are protected there. Therefore, the Turkish assaults on this area should be prevented in any case.

Against this background it is urgently necessary to put this topic on the international political agenda. The Turkish government has to be unmistakably requested not to endanger the relative stability in northern Syria.
Demands:

All fighting parties have to respect the law of nations. All parties have to concentrate on the fight against the "Islamic State". One has to consider the local religious and ethnic circumstances when intending to establish a "security zone" in northern Syria as well as providing new causes of conflict through selective settling of Sunni-Arab refugees there.

One has to allow independent observers in the official investigation by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the deadly outcome of Turkish airstrikes in Syria to achieve incontrovertible results according to international law in a transparent proceeding.